

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:203
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2001
ARECANUT GROWERS
P.C. THOMAS

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of arecanut growers in the country;
- (b) whether these growers are facing crisis due to low price of arecanut;
- (c) the details of arecanut price prevailed during the last three years; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to help arecanut growers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

- (a): Estimate of number of farmers engaged in individual crops is not maintained.
- (b) & (c): During recent months the prices of arecanut have shown a downward trend. The annual average month-end wholesale prices at selected markets during the last three years is at Annexure-I.
- (d): To protect the interest of arecanut cultivators, the Government has
 - (i): enhanced import duty from 35 per cent to 100 per cent during 2001-2002;
 - (ii): issued instructions to custom officials to keep strict vigil so as to prevent illegal entry of the commodity into the country;
 - (iii): Arecanut has been procured by the Government authorities during 2001-2002 under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) so as to enable prices to stabilize; and
 - (iv): constituted an Expert Committee under the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, to examine issues relating to production technology, demand, duty structure, prices and other related issues.

Annexure-I

ANNUAL AVERAGE OF MONTH-END WHOLESALE PRICES OF ARECANUT DURING LAST THREE YEARS

(Rs. Per qtl.)

State/Market	Variety	Year	Price
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KERALA Alleppey	Ripe (1000 Nuts)	1999	1033
		2000	617
		2001	485+

KARNATAKA Shimoga	Bette	1999	14470
		2000	14505
		2001	13625

Mangalore New 1999 13795
 2000 9212
 2001 4911+

+ Ten months average